

Appl. No. 09/765,119
Amdt. Dated July 29, 2004
Reply to Office action of April 29, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P12684/27943-00408USP1
EUS/J/P/04-6168

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An arrangement for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising:

a first node, said first node configured to provide call control functions;

a second node, said second node connected to said first node by a first link and a second link ~~at least one link~~, said second node configured to provide connection control functions, said second node containing no call control function and adapted to rely on said first node for said call control functions by receiving signaling information over said second link; and

wherein data information ~~and signaling information~~ is transmitted over ~~the at least one link~~ said first link.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 1 ~~claim 2~~, wherein the first link comprises a time division multiplexed (TDM) link, and the second link comprises an ethernet link.

4. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 1 ~~claim 2~~, wherein the at least one link further comprises a third link, and whereby the signaling

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information is also transmitted over the third link, the signaling information being transmitted from said first node to said second node over the second link and from said second node to said first node over the third link.

5. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 1 ~~claim 2~~, wherein neither the data information nor the signaling information is identified as such.

6. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said first node is further configured to provide connection control functions and is adapted to route a communication incoming to said second node as an outgoing communication from said first node by directing the communication over the first link ~~at least one link~~, the communication including data information.

7. (Original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said first node is further connected to a first time division multiplexed (TDM) network, and said second node is further connected to a second TDM network and an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network.

8. (Original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said first node includes a synchronous transfer mode (STM) switch, and said second node includes an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switch.

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9. (Original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein call control functions comprise switching intelligence of a telecommunications node, and connection control functions comprise switching fabric of a telecommunications node.

10. (Currently Amended) A dual-node system for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising:

a first node, said first node configured to provide call control functions;

a second node, said second node connected to said first node by ~~at least one link~~ a first link and a second link, said second node configured to provide connection control functions and containing no call control functions and further adapted to transmit data information and signaling information wherein said data information is transmitted over said first link and said signaling information is transmitted over said second link over the at least one link; and

wherein said first node and said second node function as a single logical node within the communications network by said second node relying on said first node for all call control functions communicated over said second link.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The dual-node system according to claim 10, wherein an incoming communication to said second node over a broadband transport mechanism is forwarded from the single logical node as an outgoing communication from said first

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node over a narrowband transport mechanism responsive to a traffic determination made by said first node.

13. (Original) The dual-node system according to claim 10, wherein the single logical node comprises a hybrid switch.

14. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications system comprising:
a first node, said first node configured to provide call control functions;
a second node, said second node configured to provide connection control functions and capable of receiving telecommunications data, said second node not containing any call control functions and further adapted to rely on said first node for call control functions;

a first link for connecting said first node with said second node, said first link for transporting signalling information associated with the received telecommunications data between said second node and said first node; and

a second link for connecting said first node with said second node, said second link for transporting the received telecommunications data between said first node and said second node.

15. (Original) The telecommunications system according to claim 14, further comprising a third link, said third link for connecting said first node with said second node, said third link for transporting call control information from said first node to said second node for controlling the received telecommunications data; and wherein said

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first link is for transporting the signaling information associated with the received telecommunications data from said second node to said first node.

16. (Original) The telecommunications system according to claim 14, wherein said first node is further connected to an intelligent network (IN) node, and said second node is further connected to a time division multiplexed (TDM) network and an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network.

17. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications arrangement comprising:

a control node for providing call control instructions;

another node for receiving telecommunications data and not capable of generating any call control instructions and further ~~and~~ relying on the call control instructions received from the control node to route the received telecommunications data;

a signaling link for communicating signaling information associated with the received telecommunications data from said another node to said control node; and

a call control link for communicating at least one call control instruction from said control node to said another node, the at least one call control instruction generated as a result of processing the communicated signaling information.

18. (Original) The telecommunications arrangement according to claim 17, wherein said another node comprises at least one of an access node and a broadband switching node.

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19. (Original) The telecommunications arrangement according to claim 17, further comprising:

a data link for communicating the received telecommunications data between said another node and said control node.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising the steps of:

providing a first node having call control functionality;

providing a second node having connection control functionality and not including any call control functionality;

sharing, by the first node, the call control functionality with the second node wherein said second node is adapted to rely on said first node for said call control functionality;

transmitting, by the second node, data information related to a communication to the first node over a first link; and

transmitting, by the second node, signaling information related to the communication to the first node over a second link.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein said step of transmitting, by the second node, signaling information related to the communication to the first node comprises the step of:

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 piping the signaling information through the second node and from the second node to the first node without reformatting.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 20, further comprising the steps of:
- receiving, by the first node, the signaling information related to the communication from the second node;
- analyzing, by the first node, the signaling information related to the communication to make a traffic routing determination; and
- transmitting, by the first node, a routing instruction that is based on the traffic routing determination to the second node.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein said step of transmitting, by the second node, data information related to a communication to the first node comprises the step of:

 transmitting, by the second node, the data information related to the communication to the first node without indicating whether the transmitted information corresponds to data information or signaling information.

25-30. (Cancelled)